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Excerpt from Hall, A Treatise on International Law, 8th ed., 1924, pp. 368-69

§ 102. Officers in command of armed forces of the state when upon friendly territory possess certain privileges, which have been already defined, in virtue of their functions and of the representative character of the force which is under them; and in time of war they have certain powers of control within an enemy's country and of making agreements with the enemy in matters incident to war, which will be mentioned in subsequent chapters. To complete the view of their position, and of that of the members of forces under their command, it is only necessary to add that neither they, nor the members of such forces, are in any case amenable to the criminal or civil laws of a foreign state in respect of acts done in their capacity of agents for which they would be punishable or liable to civil process if such acts were done in their private capacity. Thus, when a state in the exercise of its right of self-preservation does acts of violence within the territory of a foreign state while remaining at peace with it, its agents cannot be tried for the murder of persons killed by them, nor are they liable in a civil action in respect of damage to property which they may have caused.